

1. Title:

A life history of a collection,
network analysis and the collections of the Meertens Instituut.

2. Abstract:

Most biographies concentrate on one person, but what if the subject is not a person, but an object, created by hundreds or maybe thousands of individuals during its lifetime? This paper is about the life history of the collections of the Meertens Instituut. This institute studies Dutch language and culture. The collections consist of 2 km of archival material and 15 TB of data that have been accumulated in a period of over 80 years (Jongenburger, 2013). The collections are the outcome of the process of gathering information and therefore are interconnected with the individuals who were collecting, their interests and personalities.

The paper focuses on extracting, processing and visualizing this information. It reflects on the theory of Charles Jeurgens (2012) about the creation of archival networks. The data about the persons involved in collecting are extracted from the collection management system and the annual reports. Moreover, the data are enriched with information from the Biographical Portal of the Netherlands (Biografischportaal, 2019). The networks are visualized using Palladio, a dedicated network software tool (Palladio, 2019). This paper will show the first results. The outcomes will be incorporated in my PhD research, which is about the life history of the collections of the Meertens Instituut.

Reference:

Jeurgens, K.J.P.F.M. (2012). Information on the move. Colonial archives: pillars of past global information exchange. In Jeurgens, K.J.P.F.M., Kappelhof A.C.M. and Karabinos, M. (eds.), Colonial Legacy in South East Asia. The Dutch Archives. 's-Gravenhage: Stichting Archiefpublicaties, pp 45-65.

Jongenburger, W., Jansen, A.W.H and Zeldenrust, D.A. (2013). Collectieplan Meertens Instituut, 2013-2018. Amsterdam: Meertens Instituut.

Websites:

<http://www.biografischportaal.nl> (Accessed January 28, 2019).

<http://www.meertens.knaw.nl> (Accessed January 28, 2019).

<http://palladio.designhumanities.org> (Accessed January 28, 2019).

3. Preferred format:

Paper.

4. Theme:

Networks and Network analysis.

5. Contributor:

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I am the Collection Manager and Digital Curator at the Meertens Instituut. My aim is to provide access to cultural information. And my focus is on collections, ICT and Digital Humanities. For more information go to: www.douwezeldenrust.nl.